WOMONSPACE NEWS

VOL.1 NO. 8

The voice of Womonspace to the lesbian community of Edmonton

All of us in Wonderland: How Local Lesbians Hit The Big Time

Chapter Six

Oh, but we are feeling adventuresome today. The San Fransican sun shines bright on our decision to drive down the coast to Monterey. And our guide book assures us that a "cozy, delightful, mixed club" awaits us on those laid-back shores.

"And," I hug my friends in anticipation," we'll get to experience that whole California Togetherness scene. I know, I've been to California before...once. The further south you go, the more you find a really real sense of true union with nature. Everyone accepts you for what you are and the experience of communion is..."

"Are we talkin' Hot Tubs here?" my lover interjects.

"True, Hot Tubs are often utilized as a method of easing and effecting communication..." I look around. I am talking to an empty room. My friends are already in the car.

** Being Gay in Monterey **

The club has everything our book promised: cozy bar, large dancing area, open air lounge and patio. Yes, it is everything we imagined -- except mixed.

As we make our way to the bar, all two dozen or so male patrons stop what they're doing and stare. But no one spits, growls or throws anything so we nervously find a seat.

"I.D. ladies, please?" the bartender snarls.

No one has asked me for I.D. in ten years. I want to kiss him, but I never kiss anyone with fangs. Wide-eyed and damp-palmed, we oblige. The room behind us is tomb-like.

My lover throws her arms around me and whispers, "I hope none of them are armed."

I shudder in agreement and give her a quick kiss.

Suddenly the whole room comes alive! All the men are laughing and talking, ice cubes are tinkling and smiles are everywhere. With a huge grin, our bartender hands back our cards.

Puzzled, the four of us look to each other and then... The light dawns! They had thought we were STRAIGHT! Well, now that they knew we were sisters, the party was on. Someone turned on the Big Screen TV, the bartender bought us some wine, and we all settled down to watch "The Thing".

My friends drape their arms around me and smile. "This is nice, but you promised us Hot Tubs."

"Hey, I got you into a little hot water. What more do you want?"

Karen

AUGUST '83.

Activities ~

Camp-out: To replace the one that was unfortunately cancelled, another women's camp-out has been planned for August 5-7. This time it's at Lakeview. Drive south on highway 2, take the Bently/Rimbey turnoff (Highway #12), go 10 miles west, past the park office residence and there's a sign on your left. Ten sites have been confirmed with room for approx. 50 women.

Softball: Sorry, due to lack of interest, softball on Sundays has been cancelled.

Lesbian Drop-In: It's in the works. Look for a weekly opportunity for coffee and talk in the very near future.

GATE

GAY ALLIANCE TOWARD EQUALITY

10173·104 St. EDMONTON (403)424-8361

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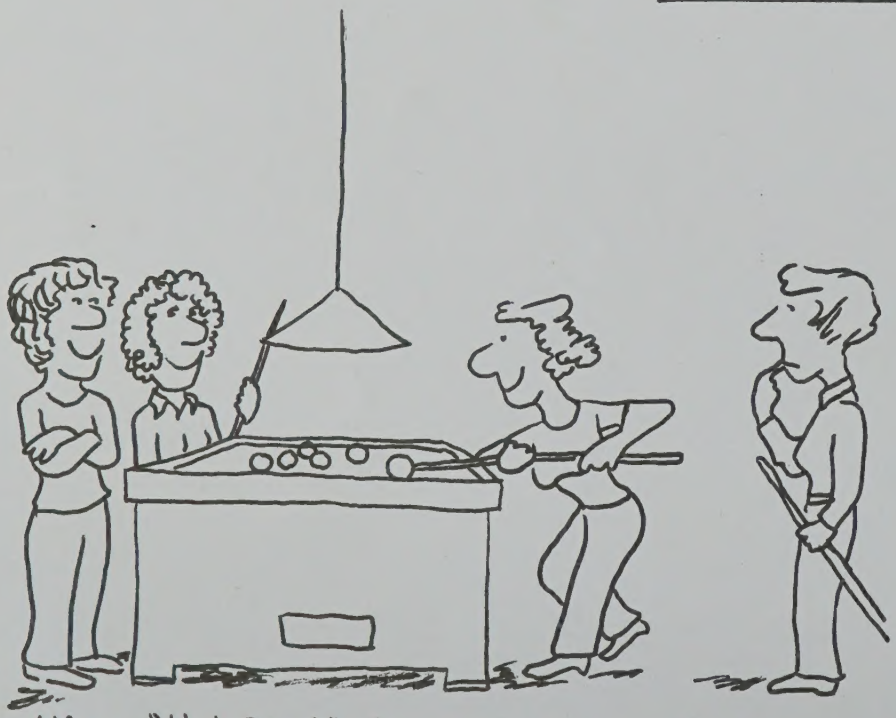

Alice "Hot Shot" Barnes, who prides herself in pocketing several balls with one perfect shot, finds that her newly-acquired lover, Sonja, is an enthousiastic, but totally inept pool-player, in full view of two of Alice's ex-lovers.

W O M O N S P A C E

Membership Application

WOMONSPACE is Edmonton's only non-profit social, recreational and educational resource group for lesbians. And we are run by our members. This means that as a member of WOMONSPACE, you have the unique opportunity to create as much as partake in social activities planned just for us. WOMONSPACE gives you a chance to share your skills and meet women with similar interests while contributing to a social community of our very own. As part of your membership application, please take the time to answer the following questions. It will help us better serve your needs in the future. All information that you entrust to WOMONSPACE is held strictly CONFIDENTIAL.

1. What activities would you like to see sponsored by WOMONSPACE?

   _____

   _____

   _____

2. What are your interests and hobbies? _____

   _____

3. What special skills or talents do you have? (i.e. photography, typing, organizational, etc.) _____

4. What expectations do you have of WOMONSPACE? _____

   _____

   _____

5. Are you interested in volunteering? If so, in what capacity?

   _____

****

NAME:

ADDRESS:

MAILING ADDRESS:

PHONE:

AGE:

Please, would you enclose a donation with your application? Ten dollars ($10.00) is recommended but any amount is greatly appreciated. Return your application to WOMONSPACE c/o Every Woman's Place, 9926 - 112 Street, Edmonton T5K 1L7. A membership card will be forwarded to you. Please do not send cash through the mail.

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Food for Thought ~

A MISCONCEPTION: "Lesbianism is against religion! It is a sin!"

The Bible is most often referred to as a source to validate the point that lesbianism is a sin, opposing religion. The truth is that there are no specific references to lesbianismin the Bible. There is, however, an often-cited passage in Leviticus, Chapter 11, Verse 22 which says: "It is an abomination for mankind to lie with mankind as with womankind." These words are addressed to men.

There is another quote from the Bible, cited not as often, from the Second Book of Samuel, Chapter 1, Verse 26, in which David says: "O Jonathon....your love was more marvelous to me than the love of women." And in the Book of Ruth, Ruth says to Naomi: "...for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I wil lodge..."

The Bible also says that it is a sin for a woman to wear red, and for a woman or a man to eat shellfish. It is suggested the reader draw her/his own conclusions.

Liz Diamond, The Lesbian Primer, (Salem, Mass.: Women's Educational Media, Inc.), 1979, p. 10.

Coming Events ~ Other Organizations

Women's Club Nights: The Roost - every Wednesday night. No cover charge. Happy hour from 9-10 pm. Flashback - every Thursday night. No cover charge. Suggestions for activities welcomed -- see Michael.

Women's Night: Every Thursday night is Women's Night at GATE. 7-10 pm, 10173 - 104 Street. Everyone is welcome.

Women's Club Night Barbeque: August 11 at Flashback. Pre-ticket sale only. Tickets $5.00, available at Flashback. Good Food!

Women's Dance: Dance your feet on Aug. 27, 8:00 pm at the Phoenix Hall, 10853 - 98 Street. Sponsored by GATE.

M.C.C.: August is Gay/Lesbian Christian Month! Come celebrate in the Unitarian Church building at 126 Street and 110 Avenue every Sunday at 7:30 pm.

COMMON WOMAN BOOKS

Alberta's Only Feminist Bookstore

non-sexist children's books
records * jewelry * t-shirts
fiction * feminist theory
overcoming male & female stereotypes
a good selection of lesbian literature

Tuesday & Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday & Fnday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

8208 - 104 Street 432-9344

Further Info:

Elections: Nominations for all offices have been postponed until the Sept. general meeting. Elections will be held in October.

In Appreciation: A special thank you is extended to Louise in recognition of all the dedication and enthusiasm she extended to WOMONSPACE during her term of office as President. Louise's influence was present at the beginning of WOMONSPACE and is still being felt. Thank you Louise.

Submissions: Anything you want to see in this newsletter must be submitted no later than the 10th of every month. Contact Shane at 452-3416, or mail submissions to "Womonspace News", c/o Every Woman's Place, 9926-112 Street, Edmonton, T5K 1L7.

General Meetings: Held on the second Tuesday of every month at Every Woman's Place, 9926-112 Street. The next one is August 9, 7:30 pm.

Credits: Committee - Jeanne, Shane, Karen, Candy, Lindy, Sheila
Layout - Lindy

WOMONSPACE NEWS is published monthly by Womonspace Social and Recreational Society of Edmonton. WOMONSPACE is a non-profit, social, recreational and educational organization for lesbians in Edmonton. Mailing address: "Womonspace News", c/o Every Woman's Place, 9926-112 Street, Edmonton, Alta.